



Connecticut Republicans

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October 8, 1997

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MUR 4682

Sam Gejdenson for Congress Committee

Andrew Huang, Shah Yaw Chang, Tsing-Pie Liu,
Shu-Ying Hsu, Charles O. Grimes II, Chia Hui Lin,
Katherine Lim, Monica Pickus, Steven Rodriguez

Oct 14 2 06 PM '97

COMPLAINT & REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

The Connecticut Republican State Central Committee, by and through its Chairman, Chris DePino, brings this complaint pursuant to 2 U.S.C. - 437g(a)(1). The Connecticut State Central Committee may be reached at 97 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

The Sam Gejdenson for Congress Committee accepted \$7,000 in apparently illegal contributions produced by Connecticut restaurateur Andrew Huang. In apparent attempt to conceal these contributions from voters until after elections, Huang's out-of-state agents waited until just one day before the 1996 election and mere hours after the final pre-election reporting obligations had expired before allegedly making their contributions. It now appears that the Huang-generated contributions were made without the reported donors' consent, funds or knowledge, according to at least one news account. *See McIntyre, "Gejdenson Donations From Texas Questioned," The Hartford Courant, Aug. 5, 1997 (attached) (multiple alleged donors could not be found, others vehemently denied making the seven-month -old contributions when initially approached by the reporter).*

Contributions made in the name of another - for which the named contributors are reimbursed—are unlawful. 2 U.S.C. - 441f. Likewise, contributions from foreign nationals—whether made directly or funneled through resident intermediaries—are illegal. 2 U.S.C. - 441e.

Huang's 1996 activities on Gejdenson's behalf appear to be part of a pattern begun in 1992 and continued in 1994., a pattern of which the Gejdenson Committee was or should have been aware. Over these three election cycles, Huang has raised almost \$40,000 for Gejdenson's re-election efforts. The Commission should actively investigate the true sources of contributions to the Gejdenson for Congress Committee and must not rely upon the Gejdenson Committee's alleged internal review of these questionable donations. The Gejdenson Committee's alleged internal investigation is self-serving and inherently unreliable. The Commission should impose appropriate penalties for all knowing and willful violations of law.

State of Connecticut
Signed and sworn before me this
7th day of OCTOBER, 1997.

Michael Argento
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission expires: 8/31/02

MICHAEL ARGENTO
NOTARY PUBLIC

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris DePino

Chris DePino
Chairman
Connecticut Republicans

Donations to Gejdenson questioned

Middletown man with Taiwan ties linked to checks from Texas

By MIKE McINTIRE
Courant Staff Writer

In the race of his life, with his campaign short of cash, Congressman Sam Gejdenson got a last-minute handful of \$1,000 checks from Texas, served up by an obscure Middletown restaurant owner named Andrew Huang.

Campaign officials did not recognize the names on the seven checks, but they readily deposited them just 24 hours before voters in Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District went to the polls last Nov. 5 to choose between the eight-term Democrat and Republican Ed Munster.

Now, a review of those contributions has raised questions about the source of some of that money.

Reached by telephone in Bellaire, Texas, Shah Yaw Chang, whose name appears on one of the checks, at first adamantly denied

making the contribution. He said a mutual friend of Huang's in Houston must have used his name without his knowledge.

"I never contributed to any congressman, anywhere," Chang said. "I never signed any check. Is my name on the check? How can that be?"

An hour later, Chang changed his story, saying he suddenly remembered signing a check "for a senator or something from Connecticut. Was he running for president?"

Five of the other Texas contributors did not respond to letters the Sam Gejdenson Re-Election Committee sent shortly after the election, asking for more details about their identities. The campaign had to send the letters because it did not have enough information to meet federal reporting requirements.

Closer to home, a West Hartford restaurant

Please see Gejdenson, Page A6

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COURANT

8/5

Ref.

Gejdenson

Gejdenson donation from Texas questioned

Continued from Page 1

worker, Tsing-Pie Liu, whose name appears on one of eighteen \$1,000 checks solicited by Huang for the Gejdenson campaign in 1994, declined to say whether it was her own money. "I can't answer that," she said.

Federal law limits contributions from individuals to \$1,000 per candidate for each election and prohibits reimbursing others or using their names to make contributions.

Gejdenson said he is sensitive to revelations from the ongoing Senate hearings on campaign finance abuses — which have focused on the methods and motives of some Asian Americans who gave to the Democrats in 1996 — and said he welcomed any information on possible irregularities in his own campaign. The congressman said he has known Huang since 1984, when "somebody recommended Andrew's restaurant" as a site for a fund-raiser for Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale.

Huang's friends and relatives say that he is not related to John Huang, the former Democratic National Committee fund-raiser whose activities are at the center of the Senate investigation. John Huang emigrated to Connecticut from Taiwan in the late 1960s and earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Connecticut.

Based on questions by The Courant, Rich Davis, Gejdenson's chief of staff, said Friday he has asked Eastern Savings & Loan in Norwich for copies of all seven Texas checks that were deposited in the campaign's account on Nov. 4, 1996. Those checks are a fraction of the \$40,000 Andrew Huang raised for Gejdenson's last three campaigns, most of it coming from Huang, his relatives and a network of fellow Taiwanese immigrants.

Gejdenson cautioned against unfairly characterizing Huang's fund-raising efforts until all the facts are in.

"It would be unfortunate if we stereotyped all Asian American contributors because of what's going on in Washington," he said.

Questions about contributions are not the only recent event to shed light on Andrew Huang.

When he's not running the Mikado sushi grill across from Middletown City Hall, Huang, 51, frequently travels to Asia as a consultant to American petroleum companies seeking to do business there. One former client served a subpoena on Huang in June, in connection with a civil suit, asking whether part of his \$500,000 consulting fee was used to bribe government officials in Taiwan.

The subpoena was recently withdrawn after the litigants entered an out-of-court arbitration proceeding. Lawyers from both sides say they are prevented by a court-imposed gag order from talking about the case.

Huang was out of the country,

and his wife, Cathy Huang, declined to comment on the subpoena or her husband's consulting business. She said any contributions he solicited were legal.

Cathy Huang said her family contributed to Gejdenson because "he's a nice guy. He's cleaned up the environment and that sort of thing." Friends and relatives agreed to contribute because "they all like him, too."

Until 1994, when Republicans took control of Congress, Gejdenson was chairman of the House subcommittee dealing with exports. Gejdenson also has been an outspoken critic of human rights abuses by Taiwan's chief nemesis, the People's Republic of China.

Andrew Huang was invited in 1993 to go with Gejdenson on a trade mission to Taiwan, along with representatives of 14 U.S. companies, and he has discussed with the congressman his various projects involving exports of American technologies to places such as China and Vietnam. Campaign expense reports show that Gejdenson, or members of his campaign staff, had meals and meetings at Huang's restaurant at least 13 times in the months leading up to the Nov. 5 election.

One of those times was Nov. 3, two days before the election. The following day, the Gejdenson campaign deposited the seven \$1,000 checks from Texas. The checks came in after Huang contacted a friend in Houston, Steve Hsu, who said Huang told him "the congressman had asked for his help."

"Andrew had been down to Houston a couple of times, and he asked me to support Sam," said Hsu, who owns a Best Western Hotel in Houston. "He told me he was supporting the congressman because of his past record of support for Taiwan."

Gejdenson said he did not recall asking Huang to raise money, but did not rule out having done so.

"It was highly unlikely that I did," he said. "But, obviously, somebody in the campaign did."

Hsu said that, in addition to himself, he rounded up contributions from his wife, Shu-Ying Hsu, and some employees and friends. He said they each gave their own money.

Chang, reached by phone, expressed surprise when told his name appeared on a check. He said Hsu "must have used my name. I certainly didn't do it. I did not contribute. What do I do now?"

Called again an hour later, Chang said, "I'm glad you called back. I need to make a correction." He said "Steve is a good friend of mine. He said this guy was coming to Houston and asked me if I wanted to participate. I said yes."

Asked how he suddenly recalled signing the personal check for \$1,000, Chang volunteered that he "hadn't talked to Steve about this. I just remembered it."

Attempts to reach Hsu again were unsuccessful. Four of the other

Verbatim

■ Shah Yaw Chang, a construction contractor from Texas, is listed in campaign records as contributing \$1,000 to U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson last November, along with six others from that state. Following is part of a recent set of interviews with Chang.

Shah Yaw Chang: I never contributed to any congressman, anywhere. I never signed any check. Is my name on the check? How can that be?

The Courant: Are you Shah Yaw Chang, at 906 Lennette Court, Bellaire, Texas?

Chang: Yes, that's me, but we recently moved. That's not my address any more.

Courant: Didn't someone from the Gejdenson campaign call you and ask you what your occupation was? They needed to do that to fill out a report on the contribution, and they told me they reached you and you said you were in construction.

Chang: Ohhh...let me see now. My son told me someone from DC called here this morning, asking what my occupation was and he told them. I didn't know that's who was calling, though.

Courant: So how did your name wind up on this check?

Chang: I have no idea. This is the first I've heard of it. I've never contributed to any campaign.

Courant: Do you know Steve Hsu?

Chang: Yes. He's a friend of mine. I know him.

Courant: These contributions appear to have come through him. Is it possible he used your name without you knowing it?

Chang: He must have used my name. I certainly didn't do it. I did not contribute. What do I do now?

One hour later:

Chang: I'm glad you called back. I need to make a correction.

Courant: What's that?

Chang: I remember now. Steve is a good friend of mine. He said this guy was coming to Houston and asked me if I wanted to participate. I said yes.

Courant: What guy?

Chang: He's a senator or something from Connecticut? Was he running for president?

Courant: And you wrote a check?

Chang: I wrote a check, yes. I remember it now. I forgot before.

Courant: How did you just remember this?

Chang: My wife reminded me. I haven't talked to Steve about this. I just remembered it.

The Hartford Courant

Texas contributors — Charles O. Grimes II, Chia Hui Lin, Katherine Lum and Monica Pickus — could not be located.

Pickus is also linked to a Florida contributor, Steven Rodriguez, whose name appears on another \$1,000 check that was deposited by the Gejdenson campaign on Nov. 4, 1996. Around that time, Pickus was working at a Ramada Inn in Plant City, Fla., where Rodriguez is the hotel controller, according to Pickus' mother-in-law, Sharon Whitten.

Whitten, who manages another Ramada Inn in Lakeland, Fla., laughed when told her daughter-in-law had contributed \$1,000 to Gejdenson's campaign.

"I can't imagine her doing that," Whitten said. "I have no idea why she would be making a contribution to someone up in Connecticut."

Despite Whitten's statement about Pickus working at his hotel, Rodriguez said he did not know Pickus. He also said he did not know Huang or Hsu Rodriguez — who is

not listed as contributing to any other federal campaigns last year — said he decided on his own, using his own money, to contribute to Gejdenson because he has relatives in Connecticut. He would not say who his relatives are.

Davis, Gejdenson's aide, said last week that there are no plans to return any of the Texas contributions, unless the internal review determines the money was contributed illegally. He said though five of the contributors never responded to the letters sent by the campaign committee — which asked them to identify their occupation and employer, details that are required by law — the campaign met its obligation to make an attempt to get the information.

A Federal Election Commission spokesperson said the Gejdenson committee's attempts appeared to meet the regulatory requirements.

"The FEC requires a good-faith effort to contact the contributor, and we feel we have done that with the letters," said Davis.

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Gejdenson seeking information on Texas campaign donors

Hartford (AP) — U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson has been asking a group of campaign donors from Texas for more information about themselves so he can meet financial reporting requirements.

His campaign collected seven \$1,000 checks from the Texans in the waning days of his 1996 re-election bid with the help of Andrew Huang, a Middletown restaurateur who has raised \$40,000 for the congressman over the past six years.

At least one of the donors had trouble recalling sending the congressman a \$1,000 donation just days before Gejdenson won a ninth term representing the 2nd District. The Hartford Courant reported Tuesday in a review that raised questions about the source of the contributions.

"I never contributed to any congressman, anywhere," Shah Yaw

Chang, whose name appears on one of the checks, told the Courant by telephone from Bellaire, Texas. "I never signed any check. In my name on the check? How can that be?"

An hour later, Chang said he remembered signing a check for a Connecticut politician.

Individuals cannot contribute more than \$1,000 per candidate for each election, and the law prohibits reimbursing others or using their names to make contributions.

Other Texas contributors did not respond to letters the Gejdenson campaign sent after the election when it sought more information to satisfy campaign finance reporting requirements.

Rich Davis, Gejdenson's chief of staff, said he has asked Eastern Savings & Loan in Norwich for copies of all Texas checks that were deposited in the campaign's account Nov. 4

He said there is no plan to return any of the money unless it is determined the money was contributed illegally, and noted the campaign made an effort to get more information about the donors. A Federal Election Commission spokesperson said the Gejdenson committee's attempts appeared to meet the regulatory requirements.

"The FEC requires a good-faith effort to contact the contributor, and we feel we have done that with the letters," Davis said.

The inquiry comes as the Senate holds hearings on alleged campaign finance abuses that includes an investigation of the work of Asian-American who gave to the Democrats in 1986.

Huang's friends and relatives told the Courant he is not related to John Huang, the former Democratic National Committee fund-raiser whose cam-

paign work is under close scrutiny. John Huang emigrated to Connecticut from Taiwan in the late 1980s and earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Connecticut.

Gejdenson said he has known Andrew Huang since 1984, when "somebody recommended Andrew's restaurant" as a site for a fund-raiser for Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale.

Gejdenson said he did not remember asking Huang to raise money, but did not rule out having done so. The congressman also said it would be unfair to judge Huang's work until all the facts are known.

"It would be unfortunate if we stereotyped all Asian-American contributors because of what's going on in Washington," Gejdenson said. Huang was out of the country. His wife, Cathy Huang, said any contri-

butions he solicited were legal.

She said her family contributed to Gejdenson because "he's a nice guy. He's cleaned up the environment and that's sort of thing." Friends and relatives agreed to contribute because "they all like him, too," she told the Courant.

The Texas checks were collected after Huang contacted Steve Hsu, a friend in Houston, who said Huang told him "the congressman had asked for his help."

"Andrew had been down to Boston a couple of times, and he asked me to support Sam," said Hsu, who owns a Best Western Hotel in Houston. "He told me he was supporting

the congressman because of his past record of support for Taiwan."

Gejdenson has publicly criticized China — Taiwan's enemy — for the country's human rights abuses.

Hsu said that, in addition to himself, he rounded up contributions from his wife, Shu-Ying Hsu, and employees and friends. He said they each gave their own money.

Four of other Texas contributors could not be located. The mother-in-law of one contributor — Monica Pictus — laughed when told her daughter-in-law had contributed \$1,000 to the Connecticut congressman's campaign.

DeStefano aide leaving soon

Ark Zaretsky
at Staff

NEW HAVEN — Chief Administrative Officer Janet Lindner will leave her job at the end of August after more than 3½ quiet but effective years in one of the top jobs in city government.

Lindner, a former New York City official, has served as one of Mayor John DeStefano Jr.'s key deputies since he took office New Year's Day in 1994.

She impressed people from the start with a no-nonsense, behind-the-scenes style that sought results without appearing to dictate.

Lindner's efforts to listen to

people and foster a collaborative process presented a contrast to the bold, autocratic style of her predecessor, LaVonne Sheffield-Turner, who left New Haven for a job as the chief of staff for Cleveland Mayor Michael White.

Lindner, who reportedly plans to remain in the area, is on vacation for two weeks and could not be reached for comment.

DeStefano, a former CAO himself, confirmed that Lindner is leaving and said she did good work in a tough job.

"That's a job I held once. I think it's one of the more difficult jobs in city government and I think

Janet did an outstanding job with it," DeStefano said.

He praised her for pushing to expand library hours and services, helping to bring the police and fire departments up to full strength, holding the first firefighter promotions in decade, shepherding the Alling Memorial Golf Course to private management and initiating the city cleanup/park development Clean and Green Initiative, among other things.

He also commended Lindner for her handling of the Yale commencement/strike demonstration last year.

"I think she did a very good

job, serving me and the city well ...," DeStefano said. "Perhaps she was not as loud as her immediate predecessor, ... but at the end of the day she was effective."

Lindner first spoke with DeStefano about leaving some two months ago, he said. "I think there was a sense that she wanted to go do some other things after 3½ years of doing the job," he said.

He said he had yet to start interviewing candidates for the job and was not yet sure exactly what he would look for in a replacement.

Lindner, who previously served as assistant director of the Office of Operations under former New

York City Mayor Rudy W. Wicks, was hired to at an annual salary since

Lindner's dropout prevented the city's schools and ... edly has been seeking work within the city.

She is rumored to be headed for a job at Yale University. Yale officials were unable to confirm that Tuesday.

Aldermanic Finance Committee Chairman Jorge Perez, D-5, who clashed repeatedly with Sheffield-

Please see Lindner, Page A4

Lindner: DeStefano losing top deputy

Continued from Page A3

Turner, said he had none of the same problems with Lindner and will be sorry to see her go.

"I thought she was a great CAO. I wish her all the luck," Perez said. "She returned phone calls, she listened, she was accessible. I got the feeling that she really tried to do what was right."

"She was not combative, but she held her ground when she had to," he said. "She was willing to listen to your side of the issue, whatever that might be."

Michael Morand, who dealt with Lindner both as president of the New Haven Free Public Li-

brary Board and as Yale's assistant secretary for education and human development, said he had no alternative but to gush.

For the library, "In every instance she went above and beyond the course of duty and gave full and complete support, and we are all ... as an inscription and individually ... extremely sad to see her go," Morand said.

Lindner helped fill key library positions, fostered a strong relationship between the city and the library that didn't exist before DeStefano and she came into office and has helped speed up renovations at the Stetson Branch Library on Dixwell Avenue, he said.

Gejdenson contacts donors on election funds

Associated Press

HARTFORD — U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson has been asking a group of campaign donors from Texas for more information about themselves so he can meet financial reporting requirements.

His campaign collected seven \$1,000 checks from the Texans in the waning days of his 1996 reelection bid with the help of Andrew Huang, a Middletown restaurateur who has raised \$40,000 for the congressman over the past six years.

At least one of the donors had trouble recalling sending the congressman a \$1,000 donation just days before Gejdenson won a

ninth term representing the 2nd District. The Hartford Courant reported Tuesday, in a review that raised questions about the source of the contributions.

"I never contributed to any congressman, anywhere," Shah Yaw Chang, whose name appears on one of the checks, told the Courant by telephone from Bel-Aire, Texas. "I never signed any check. Is my name on the check? How can that be?"

An hour later, Chang said he remembered signing a check for a Connecticut politician.

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sion spokesperson said the Gejdenson committee's attempts appeared to meet the regulatory requirements.

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The inquiry comes as the Senate holds hearings on alleged campaign finance abuses that includes an investigation of the work of Asian-Americans who gave to the Democrats in 1996.

Huang's friends and relatives told the Courant he is not related to John Huang, the former Democratic National Committee fundraiser whose campaign work is under close scrutiny.

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DeStefano
Gejdenson

Questions raised about Gejdenson donations

Associated Press

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He said it is undecided whether Gejdenson will return any of the man's staff in conducting a "fact-finding" review to learn more about the donors and the situation, and determine if the money was contributed illegally. A Federal Election Commission spokesman said the Gejdenson committee's attempts appeared to meet the regulatory requirements.

"Obviously the content of the Courant story is very troubling and we're taking it very seriously," Davis said. "At no time did Sam Gejdenson solicit these contributions."

Davis said it is not unusual for Gejdenson to receive campaign contributions from donors outside Connecticut. He did not know of any direct link between the congressman and any donors in the state of Texas he may have influenced over in Washington.

"One thing we do not want to do is just assume just because a person has an Asian last name, or a German last name, or even an Hispanic last name, that they are not allowed to participate in the American political process. That is unfair," he said. "And we're going to have a process that is very sensitive to those concerns."

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Asked how he suddenly resorted signing the personal check for \$1,000, Chang volunteered that he "didn't talk to Steve about this [just remembered it]."

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The middle-in-law of one contributor — Monica Pickens — laughed when told her daughter-in-law had contributed \$1,000 to the Connecticut congressman's campaign.

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Bulletin staff writer Sue Houghton contributed to this report.